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Vol. III, No. 3

OCTOBER, 1961

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

OCT 18 1961

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RECREATION AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE

Leisure



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Those who seek the happy life must have character. This is a word which is given many interpretations in various settings, but there are two basic needs of the man of character; he must have unity, a well-integrated life; and he must live positively, not negatively. He must be and do things really, as part of himself, and not by way of public show.



Canadian Offices Begin to Show Inroads of Art

By R. Swenarchuk

**More and More Fine Paintings
Are on Display on Walls
Of Commercial Establishments**

AN EVER increasing degree of culture is apparently seeping into the once staid world of corporation executives, private businessmen and professional men in Alberta. "Culture" in this case takes the form of art appreciation, which, if it can be

based on sales of original paintings and reproductions, has jumped an amazing 40 percent during the past three or four years.

Office equippers, furnishings suppliers and art store proprietors feel that several factors are influencing this sudden awareness of art by the business world.

The jet age has dwarfed all nations in relation to time and distance and with expanded opportunities for trade and travel businessmen are visiting, more than ever before, centres of greater population not only in the

Americas, but in Europe and Asia too. Established culture confronts the business travellers almost everywhere, whether it be in the form of architectural masterpieces, beautiful museums and art galleries, or in other examples of a matured society.

Influencing factors at home such as the magnificent Jubilee Auditoria; modern, graceful offices and other public buildings also help to build up this awareness and appreciation of design and pleasing surroundings.

The theory that exposure to art helps develop an appreciation for it is borne out by increased sales of art work to businessmen following seminars and conferences at the Banff School of Fine Art, and after exhibitions of works of Albertan or other artists.

The opportunities being made available today for the average individual to study painting, or take up an alternate form of artistic leisure time activity, is another factor leading to the cultural maturity of business in this province.

The type of work or reproductions being subscribed to by Alberta business varies with business and individual. Landscapes and marine scenes are among the most popular subjects, particularly if the technique is broad and impressionistic. The fine detail of artists of earlier centuries is not often sought for business offices. Dealers believe that most people today are so influenced by modernity that they associate paintings and pictures with windows. In a painting they look for the same visual impact they would experience

if actually looking at the scene through a window. The broad impression of, say, a tree with leaves rather than the fine detail of leaves with veins is being sought.

There is a disturbing note, however in this advancement of art. Dealers and suppliers find fault with the manner by which paintings are selected for corporation offices. Interior decorators, and in some cases purchasing agency personnel themselves often chose paintings to grace the walls of the company's executive offices or public area. Those behind the scenes feel that a painting should reflect the personality and taste of the person in whose office it will hang, and that it is he who should make the selection.

Art experts warn of the danger of stereotyping a particular business through mass purchasing of either originals or reproductions to decorate office walls.

The other side of the case is presented by those who scoff at personal selection of works and suggest that a good many individuals would choose the wrong type of painting.

All "experts" agree, however, that art in the business and professional world should blend with the surroundings, and be suited to the type of operation. As an example they submit that a gory, bull-fight scene has no place in a surgeon's waiting or examining room.

Applied psychology, one of the most influencing tools of historic and modern times, is found also to have played a part in the advancement of

art in the business and professional world.

Barristers, physicians and other professional men, for example, choose paintings which are soft and comforting, although contemporary, in an attempt to create for clients or patients an atmosphere that is as warm as possible.

On the personal side some professional and business men have paintings hung in their offices because it has become the trend, or perhaps to them even more important . . . a symbol of "status."

Whatever the reasons may be for the upsurge in the use of works of art does not detract from the fact that growth is real and positive. Perhaps, as some dealers and suppliers feel, Alberta is becoming sophisticated, aided greatly in this mental maturity by the travel of her residents to all parts of the globe, and influx of new citizens from widely-scattered, culturally-rich cities and countries.

The consensus of several professionals queried was that Alberta, after 56 years, is showing signs of coming of age.

Books in Review

The era of the paperback is thriving under nurture by many major publishing houses, giving the public opportunity to enjoy literature previously unavailable due to book costs stretching from the old hardback days to today as publishing costs continue to rise. Paperbacks are gradually lifting their own cost horizons but not drastically, witness the issue of several favorite old titles by McClelland and Stewart of Toronto. The Second Scroll by A. M. Klein, \$1; Wild Geese by Martha Ostenso, \$1.25; The Stepsure Letters by T. McCulloch, \$1; The Imperialist, by Sara Jeanette Duncan, \$1.25; Delight by Mazo de la Roche, \$1; and Master of the Mill by Frederick Philip Grove, \$1.25; are among the latest issue.

The ineptitude of British-styled Colonial government thinking transferred to the early Canadian government is vividly illustrated in **George F. G. Stanley's "The Birth of Western Canada"**. This volume by the noted Canadian historical writer describes the events and conditions that led to the Riel Rebellion. It's a factual presentation that leaves little but sympathy for the metis and the Indians, and many of the white settlers as well, in their efforts to handle through regular channels their problems and needs, only to be rebuffed. The callous indifference at Ottawa to their requests and the harsh and cruel attitudes of the central government towards the Indians, imparts a conviction that the white man's path has not always been one of honor. \$6.95

For anyone who is in a hurry to find out little facts about this globe on which we reside, such as the mileage of the earth's circumference, of the volume of water in the Pacific, or the principal matters of geographic and economic concern of Australia, could do no better than to carry a copy of the **Van Nostrand Pocket Atlas of the World** in their coat pocket. This little gem of a reference contains up to date maps, diagrams and explanations on the different kinds of maps there of the globe, a veritable fund of data about the world's population wherever it may be, and other information you never miss until you suddenly have to get an answer, and quick. By D. Van Nostrand Company (Canada) Limited, 25 Hollinger Rd, Toronto. 98 cents.

Ballet Is Proposed to Tour Alberta's Rural Communities

Enthusiastic Dancers Plan To Bring Something New To Province

AN ENTHUSIASTICALLY dedicated group of Edmonton dancers known as the "Ballet Interlude" have embarked on an ambitious program which will have the troupe touring Alberta communities during the fall and winter weekends.

"Ballet Interlude" has been in existence as a group for several years

but only in the spring of this year was it incorporated as a fully-fledged ballet company. Its hope of taking ballet to the populace of Alberta hinges largely on support the group will get from community groups such as service clubs, chambers of commerce, home and school associations, or any others who will act as sponsors and guarantee an amount at least to cover expenses.

Although the company has but fifteen active dancers and two pianists, it has a versatile repertoire designed to please and interest a family audience. The young artists hope to be able to change the general public's feeling that ballet appreciation is only for what is sometimes classed as a "highbrow" audience. In the repertoire of character, comedy, classical and modern dances they feel there perhaps is something to appeal to all types of audiences.

"Ballet Interlude" is headed by artistic director Ruth Carse, a native

Edmontonian who has worked with many of the group's members for the past six years, molding them into a well-knit team. Miss Carse has had professional experience with the Volkoff Ballet Company in Toronto, the New York School of American Ballet, Radio City Music Hall, and the CBC. Just prior to returning to Edmonton in 1955 she completed a year of "post graduate" study in London.

An active part is also being taken by young Edmontonian Bryan Toews, who has just returned from a year of study at New York on a \$2,000 Canada Council grant, and an Alberta Government Arts and Craft scholarship for the Banff School of Fine Arts summer session.

Mr. Toews is the choreographer and lead male dancer for the troupe and will bring to Alberta audiences the latest in interpretive dance techniques. During his year at New York he studied with such notables as Hanya Holm, known for her work in choreographing the very successful "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot", and also at the Dance Notation Bureau where he qualified as an instructor of "labanotation"—the art of movement writing. At present he is the only person in Canada teaching this latest dance development.

The duo-instructors are confident their type of presentation will win many supporters from people who have never before appreciated interpretive dancing, and they point to an ever-growing number of ballet "converts" in Edmonton where the group

has appeared regularly with the Edmonton Light Opera Society.

In encouraging the average Albertan to attend performances, "Ballet Interlude" will offer a program which might include folk dances of the area's predominant ethnic group, fantasy dances to delight children, several story ballets of some 15 minutes duration, comedy routines and modern jazz interpretations; the latter to entice teen-age attendance.

The young Edmonton artists who make-up the group—most are in their teens and early twenties—feel that taking the ballet on weekend tour will help Alberta dancers tremendously. It will certainly give them an opportunity to perform throughout their home province, and may be a stepping stone to one of Canada's two senior ballet companies or other professional employment. Alberta dancers have seldom been afforded such a training opportunity. Most young men and women who previously have thought about dancing as a career were forced to leave the province to have their talent developed and recognized.

All the company dancers are fascinated with the thought of attracting new ballet admirers, or bringing "highbrow entertainment down to the lowbrow level". They're confident they will succeed, armed with the company's \$1,000 wardrobe, and portable lighting equipment and sets; much faith in Alberta's community organizations, and perhaps most important . . . all the enthusiasm that can be generated by dedicated artists.

Recreation As The Moderns See It

by Charles H. Odegaard

Excerpts from an address before the 16th Annual Park and Recreation Association of Canada Conference, held at the Hotel Macdonald, Edmonton, Alberta August 30, 1961 by Charles H. Odegaard, Pacific Northwest District Representative, National Recreation Association.

WHAT IS the modern concept of recreation? First let us review what was the "old" concept. Without going into even a cursory examination of history, it seems fair to assume that the "extremely" old concept subscribed to the philosophy that the supplier's only duty was to provide the area.

We then progressed to where we did believe in providing some facilities, equipment, and supervision. Please note that I did not say leadership but supervision.

The concept moved forward as there was recognized a need for a variety of areas and facilities to meet the desires of the various consumers. It also broadened with the recognition of needing leadership personnel and a tax base for operation.

We then became concerned about what program was offered as the supplier tried to provide a balanced program.

Let us pause longer before being concerned with the specifics of a modern concept. Let us learn what people have to state about whether or not **recreation is important**. Is it important:

Economically

In material presented in 1957 at a workshop of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, Mr. Marshall N. Dana of the U.S. National Bank of Portland, Oregon stated, that, "Recreation has become one of the top industries in the United States. It ranks at the highest as a cash-register word."

In the May 1961 issue of Recreation, Mr. Fred Smith, Vice-President of the Prudential Insurance Company, stated that, "Recreation as a community economic asset is largely underestimated." Mr. Smith went on to explain the part "well-planned recreation facilities can play in stabilizing population, in reducing turnover of employees in business, and in attracting new business and industries, new wealth-generating organizations, to a community".

Statements such as the preceeding ones are easily secured from officials in business, industry and government as well as from economic scholars and from the thousands who derive their livelihood from this multi-billion dollar business.

Is it important:

Medically

At the recent annual meeting of the American Medical Association Dr. Dana L. Farnsworth of Harvard University said that boredom is coupled with "aimlessness and lack of meaning and purpose," and that these constitute, "the great sickness of our time". And, mind you, he was not speaking of the group we normally consider ill or handicapped. Can recreation help people recover from this "sickness"?

Dr. Wm. Menninger of the Menninger Foundation in Kansas has said that, "recreation contributes to mental health by offering (1) a satisfactory outlet for instinctive aggressive drives that do not find an outlet because of the restrictions of school or a job; (2) opportunities to relax and thus satisfy passive desires and ease tensions created by everyday living."

Is it important to:

Religion

Is recreation important to the leaders of our various churches? I am sure that quotations are not needed here for one cannot travel today without seeing a recreation building erected adjacent to a church. I am equally certain that all of us are familiar with the outstanding recreation programs of the Catholic Youth Organization, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the Church of the Latter Day Saints, to mention only a few.

Is it important:

Politically

If judged by the part it has played in recent elections, it is of vital concern to the political field. President Kennedy's emphasis on physical fitness; the National Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.; the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and the Congressional debates over the wilderness issues. And these are only on a national scale.

Magnify these a thousand times to catch a fleeting glimpse of the importance of recreation to the state or province and smaller communities. I could personally relate to you dozens of local campaigns this past election which were decided on this recreation

issue. I am sure you can recall equally as many.

Well, then, recreation does seem to be important. However, you have undoubtedly noticed that all of the examples are from suppliers. Do the consumers also feel that recreation is important?

From the members of newly created public recreation departments as well as the new and expanded private recreation agencies we can say, yes.

From the passage of bond issues, I believe you call them By-Laws here, ranging from the \$75 million in New York State to the \$4,500,000 in Seattle, the P.N.W.'s largest city, to the \$185,000 in Alameda, Idaho, a City of under 9,000 we can say, yes—recreation is desired.

But is it needed? No this is not a play on words for certainly there can be no doubt in any of our minds that often, that which is desired is not always needed. Let us learn what others state about the need of recreation.

The late President Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed his belief in the need by including the pursuit of leisure along with that of health and welfare.

Another Roosevelt, President Theodore, expressed his belief in the need of recreation by serving as honorary president of the N.R.A. when it was founded in 1906.

Joseph Lee, founder of the Playground Movement of America, which became N.R.A., pointed out that to a child play is not a luxury but a necessity, that, more than an essential part of the child's education, it is an essential part of the law of his growth, of the process by which he becomes a man at all.

A noted professor from a midwest university has stated that we are all born with, or acquire early in life, certain basic needs or desires and that by having them we are normal. There are such needs, or desires, as muscle twitch, hunger, thirst, and sex. There is also the need to create—or destroy. The need to be recognized. The need to achieve.

He went on to state that these needs are like rivers in that they cannot be dammed forever or they will burst. And like rivers ready to burst their dams, our needs will burst if they are not channeled.

The professor further stated that if every community offered the proper amount of recreation and if every consumer partook to his optimum degree (both utopias) there would be seen a marked decrease in hospitals and institutions, in skin and internal disorders and all other maladies which are, or are the result of, a need not being met in a way acceptable to society and/or himself.

Though none of us may give recreation credit for such far reaching results these words certainly give us pause to think.

Now, it seems to me, we have reached a point where we are ready to look at Modern Concepts. We have discussed what recreation means; what the program includes; whether it is important and desired and now whether it is needed.

What then are the modern concepts. After listing every concept about which I could find any writings plus any others which I could conceive, I found that, to my satisfaction, they all belonged under one or more of the following:

1. That every community shall have someone responsible for the recreation in that community.

2. That every community shall have cooperation and coordination among the agencies affecting the recreation within the community.

3. That every individual shall have the opportunity to acquire the interest, learn the skills, and develop the senses necessary for his leisure enjoyment.

4. That every community shall provide areas and facilities on or in which individuals shall have the opportunity to exercise the learned and developed skills and senses.

FIRST or all, where does the Recreation Leader receive his training? In addition to the obvious education he receives everyday just by living he receives his recreation training in three primary ways—(1) participating as a youngster in your program (2) college or university specialized training (3) practical experience.

Regarding his participating, it would seem to me that one of the best ways to aid in forming the frame of the recruitment picture is to have a program which stimulates the type of person we need, so that he becomes interested in our work. Then, I would hope that your leaders are sufficiently astute to recognize this individual, encouraging him to make recreation his career.

His opportunity for college training is limited as, to the best of my knowledge, there is only one school of higher learning in Canada offering a major degree in this profession that requires so much training. With this in mind and with a thought for edu-

cation while on the job, I offer the following as my concept of what might be done with regards to education.

(a) As a **planner** he must be the one who **plans for people**, and who thinks in terms of people rather than of activities or facilities.

(b) He is a person who recognizes that in the past sixty years the work-week has shortened by $\frac{1}{3}$ from 60 to 40 hours and is still decreasing. As a result of the corresponding increase in leisure time, and money, our someone must be a person who is capable of giving **leisure guidance**.

(c) He is a person who must be able to assimilate the knowledge provided by others through books and temper it with practical experience, to know that normal is not necessarily average—and then to have the courage to strive to prepare people for what they should be—normal—rather than average.

AS POINTED out by Miss Virginia Musselman, Director of our Program Services, "No one agency in any community can ever hope to provide opportunities for all age groups and for all degrees of skill and interest. This, plus the undeniable fact that the tax dollar and contributed dollar are growing increasingly difficult to get, make it not just a good idea, but absolutely imperative that every agency should become a part of a community planning process". Please note that she said—planning process.

She further stated that, "**Community** recreation and public recreation are not the same, and we should never confuse them in our thinking, or in our planning. The community rec-

reaction program is the sum total of all of the recreational opportunities provided by all public and voluntary agencies, civic and social groups, religious, political, industrial and commercial groups. The drive-in theatre, the local pool hall, the P.T.A. party, the Scout meeting, the C.Y.O. teen center, the Kiwanis camp for crippled children—all are part of the enormous mosaic of community recreation."

She has gone on to state, "to conduct isolated, desulatory, duplicating, unrelated programs in these days of great need is wasteful, extravagant, and unjustifiable, no matter what agency does it. The "team" approach is accepted in medicine, in education, in rehabilitation, and in industrial training. It is essential in community recreation. And that "team" should be open to new members—in fact, **welcome** and invite new members—from welfare, from health, from housing, business, industry, transportation, communications, conservation—because the use of leisure time cuts across almost every line of endeavor today."

WHAT IS your market? Do you know your community — not just its number of factories and businesses, not just the miles of concrete and asphalt, not just the sections of sewers, but the people—always we must return to the people.

Do you know your communities' age break-down? Do you know how many are fortunate enough to be healthy and how many are ill or handicapped?

Do you know how many are living in families where mothers are working? Would it surprise you to learn

that there are approximately 2 million working mothers in the U.S. and that nearly 5 million of them have children between 6 and 17. Would this affect your market?

Is it a growing market? Though I regret that I am unable to give you Canadian figures I do hope to impress upon you that growth patterns are important. For instance, is it important. For instance, is it important for Western U.S. to know that the population increase is more than double the country's average?

Does your 5-44 year old market do as ours does by having more of them die from drowning than by any other accident except motor vehicle?

Would it be important to you to know that in our market 4 times as many children are killed playing on the streets than are killed by all childhood diseases — measles, polio, whooping cough, diphtheria and scarlet fever. It should affect our market for those are U.S. statistics.

Do you have your country's and community's 1970 market projections. In the U.S. it shows 220 million people — that's 7 new Chicagos every year! It shows an average family income of \$9,000-\$10,000 coming from a 36 hour work week. And how is your planning for youth and the aged. Progressing, I hope if your projections are like ours where ½ the population will be 19 and under and 65 and over.

And, according to Professor Fred E. Case of U.C.L.A., from whose speech these other 1970 figures were gleaned, there will be an increase in private expenditure for recreation and social facilities of at least 22 per cent and by government of at least 47%.

Is your market comparable to ours where (one) minute every day a person knowingly kills or attempts to kill himself. If so, do you know why? Do you care? Is it important to your planning?

Do we really know our market? Is baseball America's favorite pastime. We might think so but a market—remember this market is people—a market study showed more people in U.S. attend concerts than attend baseball games. It also showed that 28,500,000 of us play some type of musical instrument. Should this affect our plans.

And would it affect them to know that, according to Elizabeth Hurlock in "Adolescent Development", girls make up the "largest group of recreation — underprivileged youth?" Do they in your market? Do you know? Do you care?

DO WE kid ourselves into believing that over a million people will seasonally go to a ball park to see a team without someone having developed the interest or that the multitude who flocks to Indianapolis every July 4 do so without having had someone aid them in acquiring an interest!

Let us learn the needs of people—not just their desire.

Let us develop standards as to what is normal—not just average.

Let us do these two things and I am sure our modern Concept will find us placing even more emphasis on developing interests in family activities, creativity, and sports programs of a carry-over nature. Are you really giving your people a chance to acquire interests?

" . . . opportunity to learn the skills . . ."

Skills in what—in arts and crafts, music, drama, dance, physical and social activities, out-of-doors or other such classifications. Since there are many published lists of categories and the activities within, I shall not duplicate them. Rather, I prefer to make specific comments about two of these categories, not because I believe they are any more or less important than the others, but because they are constantly in the news.

With regards to the physical activities I would be curious to know how many of you are still able to play football, baseball, basketball, soccer or other large muscle competitive sports with your sons? You may be the exception but most men cannot and even fewer families are able to.

Yet, year after year our schools, athletic association and other agencies continue to strive to stimulate interest as well as provide a large percentage of instructors for the non-carry-over sports.

Please do not infer from this that I am not in favor of these sports. Far from it, as I was fortunate to be able to participate in them myself and hope that my three sons will be too. No, I am in favor of these sports but I am also highly in favor of these various agencies placing just as much emphasis, time, and money on other sports—sports which also build character, teach sportsmanship, and develop fitness **and** which can be done throughout life **with** the family. A partial list of these would include: golf, tennis, badminton, bowling, gymnastics, and tumbling, swimming, hiking, and volleyball.

IF THE title of my talk — Modern Concepts—means what our communities are doing with regards to areas and facilities—I am frightened, not running frightened but fighting frightened and I hope you are too, for what we are doing someplaces should not be the modern concept.

Would we want, as indicative of the modern concept, to subscribe to New York City where out of 575 miles of waterfront only 35 are swimable; or to the fact that recreation lands were usurped at a conservative value of \$9,000,000. I am sure we would not.

To point out the importance of your people and the work you are doing, I again wish to quote from Professor Case of U.C.L.A. who said, "the past has been defined as prologue to the future and, if we accept this as true, then we face a very exciting future in terms of growth but a very dismal future in terms of the manner in which this growth will be accommodated". He went on to ask, and so do I, "are we building cities for commerce, for industry or for people?"

What are some of the factors influencing our modern concept?

Present absorption of land into urban use is at an approximate rate of 1 million acres per year.

That chief offenders of stealing the public heritage, I believe it is politely called encroachment, are highways, private enterprise, schools, and other public and quasi-public agencies.

That 30 million U.S. people are leisure-time fisherman, 6 million are water skiers, pleasure crafts jumped from 2.4 million in 1947 to nearly 8 million, 75,000 swimming pools are built yearly.

And that, at least in U.S. people are moving back from the suburbs as

highlighted recently in studies by New York and Los Angeles Boards of Education.

To bring this section to a close I wish to leave with you a statement from Mr. Fred Smith of Prudential, whom you will remember that we quoted before, Mr. Smith has said, "Socialologists and psychologists may argue whether this is a good sign or a bad sign, whether it reflects the right sort of objective or whether it doesn't; but whatever they conclude, the facts are there. What interests young people as well as older people are recreation facilities. What attracts them are recreation facilities. What makes them happy in a given area is likely to be, in a large part, recreation facilities. And when an area can attract the brightest and ablest students from colleges and universities, it has made a profitable long-term investment in the future."

Ladies and gentlemen, we have reached, in fact we are far beyond, the point where we must make a far-reaching decision. We may sit back and let the present planning practices continue so that only our large cities can hire competent well-trained professionals; so that only our large cities can hire competent well-trained professionals; so that all agencies compete with each other at the expense of the individual, so that only the wealthy have the opportunity to culture and creative progress; and so that our cities become asphalt jungles and our respective National flowers become the concrete cloverleaf or we can insist that all planning be for people.

The choice is ours and it is now. May God grant us the courage and wisdom to do what is right.



Bands Offer Something To Those Seeking Accomplishment

by Hal Martin

**Olds Band Clinic Is Unique
Among North American
Musical Circles**

WHEN YOU find an attractive young lady happily and unconcernedly sitting amid a crowd, with a baritone on her lap, you can

be sure she is a dedicated musician. This summer, as for the two preceding summers, musicians equally dedicated were found by the four score and

more at the Olds School of Agriculture, happily absorbing musical instruction from some of the most outstanding instructors in the United States and Canada.

The group, who had interests as diverse as band music from a symphony, music scoring to tricks of musical instruction, from finesse of percussion instrument playing to the nuances of song flute playing, met under the auspices of the Alberta Government's Recreation and Cultural Development branch. The course itself was conceived and has been operated by Scots-broqued David Peterkin, energetic and moustached Supervisor of Music for the province.

Quickly Filled

Appreciation of the course, which had an enrolment the first year of 37 and of 95 this year, is testified by the snappy filling of the enrolment limits once registrations are open. Not only Albertans, but musicians from outside the province may attend although the home-provincers get a decided break in tuition costs. They pay only \$32.00 which covers tuition, board and lodging. The outsiders happily pay \$96.00 for the course and consider themselves fortunate to have opportunity to attend at all.

Need for the course was proven during the past few years, when a veritable outburst of band formation and other group musical endeavors has been recorded in rural areas and small towns in Alberta. Hands that spend the day gripping a tractor wheel or a pitchfork spend the eve-

nings happily fingering the valves of a cornet in the local community band. Just why this trend to musical culture has occurred no one is sure. Many can offer scores of suggestions. Higher living standards, better communication, more leisure time, the passing of the pioneer atmosphere, the increasing educational levels, the need to 'belong', all these and more combine to contribute to the ultimate reason.

Teaches Everyone

Whatever the reason, the eight day Olds Band Clinic is serving a real need. It teaches not only the local bandmaster, but the band members too. Symphony orchestra members attend, as do dance band practitioners. Age is no particular barrier. In a band in a central Alberta community, seven grandmothers play regularly, one even deserving the title of virtuoso of the drums. At the Band Clinic, which has a nominal registration minimum of 16 years, may be found those of even more tender age who have accompanied their parents, sitting in on a session and conducting themselves with their chosen instrument with an aplomb and capability that draws raised but approving eyebrows from the conductor.

One of the doctrines that is preached vigorously at the clinic is the refutation of the claim that only the gifted can learn to play an instrument.

Is Nonsense

"Rank nonsense!" is the snorted reaction of L. W. Echols of the Conn Music Corporation who has cheer-

fully given a good portion of his vacation each year to teaching without fee at the Clinic.

"The old time music teacher was the one that perpetuated that myth", is the claim of this forceful proponent of Music For Everyone. "Anyone with the proper attitude, of sincerely wanting to play, can find an instrument to suit him and can learn to play."

Backing up this claim, Mr. Echols each year rounds up a couple of dozen or so youngsters of elementary school age living in the district, and teaches them for a week, on instruments they've never heard of, much less seen before. At the end of the course, this group plays in the closing concert and does so in a way that draws enthusiastic applause from the always crowded hall.

Community Living

His contention that band playing is a forceful missionary to the concept of community living, and that two boys who are sworn enemies can sit down side by side in a band and play harmoniously each supporting the other, is borne out by many band leaders at the course.

Frank Edl, from Frank, Alta., has been teaching band music and leading bands in his district for a good many years now. He avers that "you'll never find a delinquent kid in a band. Either he won't join at all, or if he does his pleasure as a bandsman replace the hostilities that made him delinquent in the first place".

Mr. Edl ought to know. He began as a band boy himself down in the Crowsnest Pass area where his father was a miner. When mining fell on hard times, he used his clarinet to add to his income. When his wife died in 1952, he turned to music as a release. Since that time, he has operated as many as three different district bands at a time. He is now operating two, playing in a symphony orchestra and finding time to play in a dance orchestra.

\$1200 a Year

It's not easy, managing a band. "There's usually real community pride and spirit in a hometown band. But it takes about \$1200 a year to operate one. Uniforms, music, instruments and their repair, transportation, and lots of incidental costs all add up. Usually, a band can pay its way with fees for playing. But when times get tough, there's always a fall-back on the community. Generally, there's not too much trouble raising the money. Everyone recognizes what the players get out of it, especially the kids.

"It's good for the kids. They get real pride in their band and are eager to compete against others. Not to win so much as to show that they can work as a team better than some other group."

"I remember two fathers who didn't see the value of the band, and often gave me a hard time. Their sons played in it, but their dads thought it was a waste of time. You know, when there was a concert one time and



Spectator enjoyment of bands may be judged by this view of a portion of the large crowd attentively listening to the R.C.M.P. band playing in the bandshell at the Legislative grounds at Edmonton.

those parents came to listen for the first time, they had tears of pride in their eyes when their sons stood up in front of the band and before that crowd, and played a solo."

Small town bands need real adaptability on the part of their players.

That's why that young lady we mentioned at the start of this piece had the baritone on her lap. She had played ever since high school days in her home town band. First with the clarinet, then with the alto saxophone. Now, she was getting the basics and refinements of the bari-

tone euphonium. Miss Hazel Dalton is going through the University of Alberta as a dental technician but she still goes home weekends and plays whenever she has the chance, in the band at Wainwright.

Encourages Enrolment

Fellow euphonium player was Stu Thomas of Three Hills who was learning all he could with a view to taking an active interest in the growth and development of his band. A lineman with an electric utility company, he knew almost everyone in the district and was responsible for participation of many in the band for their first interest.

Running a rural electrification line across someone's property gave him golden opportunity to whip up enthusiasm and most of it has stuck.

"One of the troubles of a small band, though," he remarked, "is that while you may have 35 or 40 members, you have only a core of about 20 that turn out faithfully for practise and on whom you can rely. The others are casualties of earning a living and running a farm."

Another band leader listening spoke up. "I recall we had 32 players in our band at one time. Half of them attended every practise really faithfully, and then on the night of the concert, it was only the other 16 that turned up to play."

Whole Family Plays

The contagion of music was exemplified by the Burgman family at

the Clinic. They are members of the Crows Nest Symphony Orchestra, a 25 piece unit that has drawn the plaudits of expert musical audiences throughout southern Alberta.

Dr. Burgman is a dentist and, until last September, had had nothing to do with music except as a spectator and listener in his own home and outside. His musical wife and his two teen age musical sons played in the symphony, and it was obvious he could participate in family outings if he too took up a musical instrument. He began with the string bass and today is a member of the symphony and personally escorted his family to the clinic. Mrs. Burgman is an accomplished violinist, while 17 year old Dick has been playing the clarinet and saxophone for six years. 13 year old Ted has had three good years on the sax.

Bands are Growing

The resurgence of bands as community projects and affairs of community pride are growing in number. Exhibition and fair parades include scores of bands in their line of march. There are band competitions in districts each year, where units of players in shirtsleeves and with braces showing vie with dashing organizations whose members resemble the finest military organization, with shakos and glittering brass buttons. Each learns from the other, and none are judged a "push-over". Chances are the leaders of each were instructed at the Clinic at Olds.

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